

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on December 1, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 20 and 30 are amended, claims 7-14, 18, 19, and 22 are canceled, no claims are added, and claims 15-17 and 23-25 are allowable; as a result, claims 1-6, 15-17, 20, 21, and 23-32 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claim 20 is objected to because the claim depends on a canceled claim. Accordingly, claim 20 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 15.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 21, and 26-32 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Oda (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,888) in view of Dijksman, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,079,820).

The Examiner states that “Oda does not clearly teach the printhead controller circuit means including a replaceable ASIC. The Examiner relies upon the Dijksman, et al. reference to show the use of a replaceable ASIC. The Dijksman, et al. reference appears to describe in Col. 8, lines 16-19 an ASIC that is surface-mounted on flexfoil in relatively close proximity to the printhead.

In contrast, Applicant’s independent claim 1, recites, besides other things:

a printhead controller circuit means including a replaceable ASIC

Applicant’s independent claims 27, 28, 29, and 30, recite, besides other things:

a printhead controller circuit having a replaceable ASIC

And, Applicant’s independent claim 31, recites, besides other things:

a printhead controller circuit containing a replaceable ASIC

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Dijksman, et al. reference and cannot locate, in the cited text or elsewhere in the document, a teaching or suggestion of the printhead controller circuit means including a replaceable ASIC.

As such, each and every limitation of the Applicant's independent claims 1, and 27-31 are not shown by the Dijksman et al. reference. The Oda reference fails to cure the deficiencies of the Dijksman et al. reference. Since the Dijksman et al. and Oda references do not teach or suggest each and every element and limitation of independent claims 1, and 27-31, either independently or in combination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection, as well as those claims which depend therefrom, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4, and 20 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Oda (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,888) in view of Dijksman, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,079,820) and further in view of Inose, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,068,359). Since claims 3 and 4 depend from allowable claim 1, Applicant asserts that claims 3 and 4 are in condition for allowance.

For the reasons provided above, Applicant asserts that each and every limitation is not shown in the Oda reference. The Dijksman, et al. and the Inose references fail to cure the deficiencies of the Oda reference. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 reference for claims 3 and 4.

Applicant has amended claim 20 to depend from claim 15. Claim 15 has been allowed. As such, claim 20 is now in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15-17 are allowable.

Claims 23-25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 23-25.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (360) 212-8052 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 8th day of February, 2005.

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